S
331
Elome
APRIL 1981

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

APRIL - 1981

PLEASE RETURN

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
MAY 13 1981
MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 E Lyndale Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601

JOB SERVICE

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P.O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

LOCAL OFFICE LISTING

ANACONDA
307 E. Park
Anaconda, MT 59711
(563-3444)
(563-3445)

BILLINGS EAST
624 N. 24th St.
Billings, MT 59101
(248-7371)

BILLINGS PROGRAM OFFICE
1425 Broadwater Ave.
Suite E
Billings, MT 59102
(259-5529)

BILLINGS WEST
445 S. 24th St. W.
Billings, MT 59102
(652-2920)

BOZEMAN
220 W. Lamme
Bozeman, MT 59715
(586-5455)

BUTTE
206 W. Granite
Butte, MT 59701
(792-0417)

BUTTE PROGRAM OFFICE
Idaho & Mercury Sts.
Butte, MT 59701
(792-9115)

CUT BANK
513 E. Main
Cut Bank, MT 59427
(873-2191)

WIN CENTER
P.O. Box 837
Browning, MT 59417
(338-7551)

DILLON
126 S. Montana St.
Dillon, MT 59725
(683-5501)

GLASGOW
238 2nd Ave. S.
Glasgow, MT 59230
(228-9369)

WIN CENTER
Glasgow AFB
Box 4696
Glasgow, MT 59231
(524-7371)

GLENDIVE
211 S. Kendrick
Glendive, MT 59330
(365-3314)

GREAT FALLS
1018 7th St. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
(761-1730)

GREAT FALLS PROGRAM OFFICE
1018 7th St. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
(761-1730)

HAMILTON
333 Main Street
P.O. Box 73
Hamilton, MT 59840
(363-1822)
(363-1824)

HAVRE
416 1st St.
Havre, MT 59501
(265-5847)

HELENA
715 Front Street
Helena, MT 59601
(449-3044)

HELENA PROGRAM OFFICE
529 N. Warren
Helena, MT 59601
(442-2531)

KALISPELL
427 1st Ave. E.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(755-5071)

KALISPELL PROGRAM OFFICE
37 1st Street W.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(755-5020)

LEWISTOWN
324 W. Broadway
Lewistown, MT 59457
(538-8701)

LIBBY
314 S. Calfiornia
Libby, MT 59923
(293-6282)

LIVINGSTON
228 S. Main
P.O. Box 1199
Livingston, MT 59047
(222-0520)

MILES CITY
12 N. 10th
Miles City, MT 59301
(232-1316)

MISSOULA
539 S. 3rd St. W.
P.O. Box 5027
Missoula, MT 59806
(728-7060)

MISSOULA PROGRAM OFFICE
600 Kensington
P.O. Box 4986
Missoula, MT 59801
(721-5680)

POLSON
417 Main Street
P.O. Box 970
Polson, MT 59860
(883-5261)
(883-5262)

SHELBY
402 1st Street S.
Shelby, MT 59474
(434-5161)

SIDNEY
120 S. Central
Sidney, MT 59270
(482-1204)

THOMPSON FALLS
608 Main Street
Thompson Falls, MT 59873
(827-3472)

WOLF POINT
122 Second Ave. S.
Wolf Point, MT 59201
(653-1720)

Montana State Library
3 0864 1004 4499 4

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

April 1981

STATE OF MONTANA
TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID L. HUNTER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
FRED BARRETT, ADMINISTRATOR

Volume 11 - Number 4

Produced by:
Research & Analysis
in cooperation with the
U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

For more information contact:
Bob Rafferty, Supervisor
Research & Analysis Section
Employment Security Division
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-2430

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of people by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of jobs by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics X-11 variant of the Census Method II seasonal adjustment program.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six economic indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

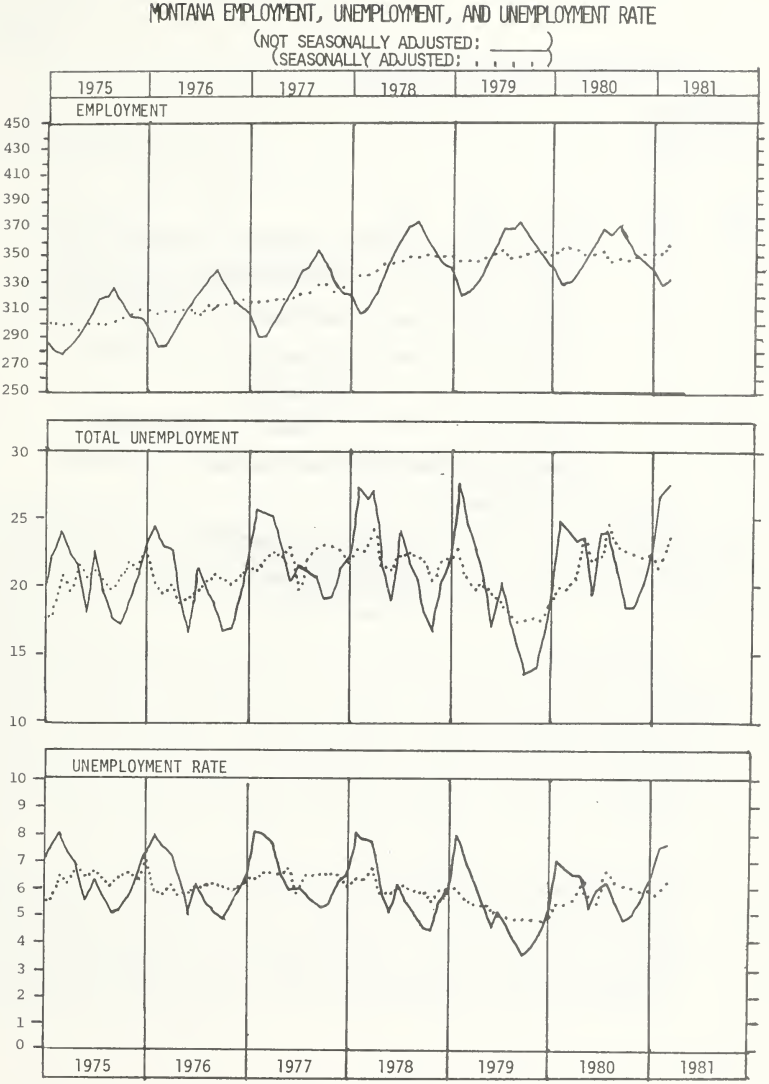
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.


MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: . . . . .)
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
EMPLOYMENT
450
430
410
390
370
350
330
310
290
270
250
440
420
400
380
360
340
320
300
280
260
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT
30
25
20
15
10
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0

All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

Bob Rafferty, Supervisor
Research & Analysis
Employment Security Division
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

STATEWIDE

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	370.9	362.4	362.9	8.5	8.0
Employment	345.3	334.9	339.5	10.4	5.8
Unemployment	25.6	27.5	23.4	-1.9	2.2
Unemployment Rate	*6.9*	*7.6*	*6.5*	*-.7*	*.4*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

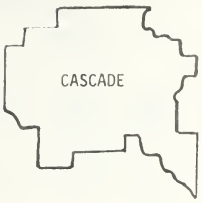
Agriculture activities are increasing around the State. Calving and lambing are nearly complete and newborn losses are less than normal. Spring planting is nearing 50 percent completion and is generally progressing faster than last year. The dry and windy conditions have damaged some of Montana's farm land. The eastern part of the state is experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions. Wind has caused erosion of the land and some people are comparing it to the days of the dust bowl.

The timber industry in the State is still declining. It is estimated that Montana will receive nearly $7.6 million in 1981 from the U. S. Forest Service. This is the State's 25 percent share of revenues that the forest service receives from use of national forest land in the State. The estimated payment is lower than last year's payment. A survey by a western lumber association shows that orders for wood products from the northwestern states through mid-March are seven percent less than the same period last year. The Forest Service is considering the first major timber sale in ten years on the eastern slope of the Rockies. The 4 to 4.5 million board foot sale is being considered because the lodgepole pine stands on the eastern slopes are dying rapidly.

Oil well drilling in the first quarter of 1981 increased by 62 percent over the same period in 1980. At the present pace, the 1968 record of 1,016 wells completed will be surpassed. Exploratory drilling is up by 40 percent, but the success ratio had a small decline. Fourteen new oil pools and two gas fields were found so far this year. Although drilling has increased, production by refineries in January was less than December. The six refineries in the State processed 11,807 barrels of crude per day the first month of this year. This was a drop of about 44 percent from the previous month. There were 380,000 barrels more in storage at the end of January than there were in December.

A boost to construction should be provided by a law just passed by the legislature. A number of school and local building projects have been delayed by the inability of government agencies to sell relatively low interest bonds. The bond market rate has been forced by inflation to about two percent above the state mandated ceiling on interest rates. The new law will remove that ceiling. Low bids on about $6.5 million of highway projects were opened the end of March. Work on these projects will begin when the contracts are awarded, which will be after the Highway Commission reviews them.

March 30 was the deadline for submitting proposals to the federally created Synthetic Fuels Corp. Three of the 61 projects, which are seeking part of the $17.5 billion in government subsidies are in Montana. The future of the synthetic fuels program has been in doubt, and new members have not yet been appointed to the board of the corporation. It is hoped that the new board will be in place soon so that the decisions on which projects to fund can be made.



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	34.6	34.2	33.6	.4	1.0
Employment	32.0	31.3	31.4	.7	.6
Unemployment	2.6	2.9	2.2	-.3	.4
Unemployment Rate	*7.6*	*8.5*	*6.6*	*-.9*	*1.0*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The possibility of a fuel alchohol plant faded as the Farmers Home Administration disapproved a loan request of $1 million because they considered the plant not economically feasible. The corporation that is planning the plant is now attempting to secure financing from another source for the $2.5 million project. A petroleum refinery in the area has been put up for sale. Operations at the refinery will continue until it is sold. The 6,000 barrel-a-day operation currently employs over 60 workers. Prospective buyers for the copper refinery that closed last fall have been touring the plant. The potential buyers indicate that if they decide to buy the refinery, new labor practices would be established and instead of needing 500 people, they would need only 250. Another firm has made some very preliminary inquiries about possibly purchasing the plant.

Construction work in the area is increasing as two long-awaited contracts are awarded. The city commission has let a $1 million contract for work at the water plant. The job will bring the water treatment plant into compliance with an order from the Environmental Protection Agency. Awarding the contract ends years of arguing between the city and the EPA on the necessity of the project. Bids have been opened for construction of a 40-bed cottage at the School for the Deaf and Blind. Apparent low bids totaled just under $1.3 million. The Legislature must approve about $700,000 in additional funds over what was originally allocated by the 1979 Legislature for the project.

Cutbacks in federal funding of the CETA program will affect some 94 positions in Great Falls. Many of the positions under the program have been eliminated by attrition. The number of CETA jobs administered by the city has dropped from 214 to its current level since they started phasing out the program last October. There will probably be 20 people actually laid off when the program ends at the end of April.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	57.7	57.1	55.4	.6	2.3
Employment	54.7	53.8	52.5	.9	2.2
Unemployment	3.0	3.3	2.9	-.3	.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.1*	*5.8*	*5.3*	*-.7*	*-.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Building permits rose in the Billings SMSA in March. A total of 73 permits were issued in February and 97 issued in March. This compares to 90 during March, 1980. In March, 1980 only 16 of the permits were for new residential buildings, while 54 new residential permits were issued during March, 1981.

Plans for a synfuel plant in Billings died when a railroad company and a construction and engineering company announced plans to end their partnership. The railroad company is one of the world's largest owners of coal, holding more than 10 million tons of stripable coal. The railroad company said the plan for the synfuel plant was too risky at this time. This move also dims hopes for a massive coal project near Circle.

New businesses amounted to 52 during March for Yellowstone County. The trade industry registered the most new businesses. This is the same number recorded for new businesses in March, 1980

There were alot of layoffs during this reporting period in the Billings SMSA. A construction company laid off about 50 persons when a stoppage was ordered on a federal project in Yellowstone Park. The employer anticipated they would not be laid off for more than a week. A chain restaurant downtown also reported layoffs of six persons due to a business slowdown. A railroad company is talking about a 17% reduction in their staff which may affect 34 employees in Billings.

The construction industry reports approval of a $3,500,000 industrial revenue bond to finance development of a mall on Central Avenue. The post office will be going through a remodeling project which should be completed in September, 1981. The total cost of this project is $450,000.

Federal budget cuts are expected to leave a number of workers looking for work. At the same time, other industrial sectors should have jobs opening up with seasonal work about ready to begin.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	March 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	34.6	34.0	33.9	.6	.7
Employment	31.9	31.1	31.9	.8	0
Unemployment	2.7	2.9	2.0	-.2	.7
Unemployment Rate	*7.7*	*8.5*	*5.9*	*-.8*	*1.8*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A local area business market study done for the Butte area addressed the tourism potential of the area and other needs of the community. It was felt that with a greater promotional campaign the area could substantially increase the amount of tourist trade. Positive factors that enhance Butte's tourism potential are its historic value, location on two interstate highways and between Yellowstone and Glacier Parks, good convention facilities and access to good fishing and recreation areas. The redevelopment of the central business district by several different improvement programs was also discussed. A survey of businesses in a three-state-area gave indications of the type of products and services lacking in the area. This gives some indication of potential new businesses to serve these needs.

Also on the tourist front, plans are underway to begin a tourist train between Butte and Anaconda sometime this spring. This endeavor would employ 10-15 people.

As spring gets underway, so do construction projects. Road construction projects include bridge repair work in Twin Bridges, grading and related work on 12 miles of road southwest of Whitehall in Madison County, $1.1 million in paving projects in the Butte area.

Approval has been received for a welding training program in Anaconda. The classes will be held at the boilershop at the smelter. The Anaconda Company will supply the welding machinery and hoods, scrap metal and utilities. The program will be geared to the ability of the students. Some will require only a brushup on techniques, others will learn the basics. It is hoped that 50 persons will be able to utilize the training program during the 24 weeks it is funded. The start-up phase of the slag pile processing has begun. About 45 people have been hired for this project. The job to completion is estimated to last 2½ years.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	25.8	25.3	26.2	.5	-.4
Employment	24.2	23.5	24.5	.7	-.3
Unemployment	1.6	1.8	1.7	-.2	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*6.2*	*7.1*	*6.4*	*-.9*	*-.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

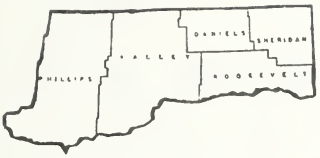
Some increase has been noted in agriculture activities over the previous month. Calving season, the main reason for the increase, is nearly completed. Spring seeding has started and is ahead of schedule due to the mild weather. The winter wheat and alfalfa crops have started growing and are experiencing some damage due to army cut-worm infestation.

A gold mining operation in Park County would employ about 180 people if a mining company fully develops their claim. If the company decides to go ahead with the mine, it would be four to five years before full production. One year would be required to secure the state and federal permits and three years to build the necessary facilities. The potential new employees at the mine and their families would swell the population by 600 to 900 people and create housing and other problems in a sparsely populated area.

Construction activity has remained about the same as last year. Twenty building permits were granted in Bozeman in March as compared with 21 permits for March of 1980. The state's long-range building plans which have been approved by the legislature include two new units valued at a total of $6.8 million for the Montana State University Campus. The proposed Visual Communications building will cost about $4.6 million and $2.2 million has been authorized for an animal laboratory.

The retail trade and service industries are experiencing some seasonal fluctuation at this time. The ski areas closed down in April and the Livingston Job Service reports that summer hiring has started for Yellowstone Park. Lack of snow and skiers has resulted in the early closing of one area which experienced only about 50% of the skier traffic that they had planned on this winter. The mild weather is also blamed for the 14% decline in winter tourism in Yellowstone Park.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	17.0	16.1	16.2	.9	.8
Employment	16.1	15.2	15.5	.9	.6
Unemployment	.9	.9	.7	0	.2
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.6	4.5	-.5	.6

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Highlighting the area economy is the increase in activity concerning construction of a major natural gas pipeline. Approximately 600 workers will be in the area for six months and the demand for local labor has increased dramatically. Early in the month, security guards were hired for the project staging area in Glasgow and by the end of the period, employers in service industries--food service, motels, etc.--began gearing up for what is expected to be a busy summer. Pipeline contractors are only now beginning to hire workers in craft-occupations.

Activity in the more permanent sectors of the area economy was up also. Seismic exploration work continued at a healthy pace, however, there was little demand for workers. Activity is expected to increase considerably in the next few months. Aircraft flight crew training continued also, and the manufacturer announced that Glasgow is under consideration as a site for a one year testing program for a new aircraft.

Construction activity in the area, which was almost nonexistent last year, shows signs of a recovery this year. Several building permits were issued last month for new homes. Remodeling activity is reportedly quite high also. Cool windy weather delayed grain seeding and field work in the agriculture industry. There was little demand for these workers this month, but the hiring pace should pick up soon.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	15.7	15.0	14.9	.7	.8
Employment	15.3	14.6	14.4	.7	.9
Unemployment	.4	.4	.5	0	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*2.7*	*2.7*	*3.4*	*0*	*-.7*

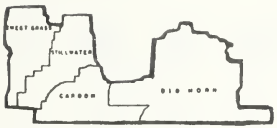
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activity highlights the area economy this period. Hiring increased each week as contractors began work on homes, apartment complexes, and a new raquetball court. Three projects which should help ease the housing shortage in Glendive were announced this month; they are a 60-unit motel and two apartment complexes of 32 and 24 units.

Two synthetic fuel plants are still being considered for construction in the area. Further planning needs to be done and nothing is certain at this time. Dawson County coal deposits would be used to produce natural gas and gasoline.

Weather slowed the activity of seismic crews. There was some occasional hiring in these occupations and the local labor supply has been sufficient. Two new drilling rigs moved into the area from Canada, but have not hired any local workers.

Activity in agriculture and retail trade was steady with some hiring occuring in each industry. Seeding of wheat and sugar beets and field work were the main activities in agriculture.



Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	13.3	13.1	12.8	.2	.5
Employment	12.6	12.3	12.1	.3	.5
Unemployment	.7	.8	.7	-.1	0
Unemployment Rate	*5.4*	*6.5*	*5.4*	*-1.1*	*0*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Spring-time agriculture activities are progressing at a good pace. Calving and lambing as well as shearing operations are nearly complete. Planting is ahead of normal due to the mild weather. Twenty-five percent of the sugar-beet crop was planted by mid-April. The army cut-worm is destroying some winter wheat and alfalfa in Carbon County.

Exploration continues for platinum group metals and could employ 20 to 25 people this summer. Full scale development of the ore body in the upper Boulder could mean mining 2,000 tons of ore per day and hauling 60 tons of concentrate to a smelter in Big Timber. The total operation could employ about 500 people.

A coal mine in Big Horn County is expanding by an additional 770 acres. The current operation is on about 1,300 acres of coal leases and produces 5.4 million tons of coal annually. Production will increase to about eight million tons annually in 1985. By 1996, operations will cease at the mine after producing approximately 120 million tons of coal.

A new oil and gas well near Belfry is producing 320,000 cubic feet of natural gas and 10 barrels of oil a day. The depth of this well is about 9,900 feet. Two other wells are being drilled to further test the area for oil and gas.

Construction work on water and sewer facilities at Spring Creek was delayed by the State Board of Health until revised plans are approved. Bids will be let this summer and fall for a $2.1 million water project at Red Lodge. Construction could begin on the first phase of a 500,000 gallon storage reservoir this fall. The second phase includes a treatment plant and distribution system. The Farm Home Administration will provide $1.6 million in low interest loans and $500,000 in grants for the project.

The proposed ethanol plant for Big Timber is at a standstill until it can find financing. Federal Budget cuts eliminated the funds for the project.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	12.8	12.1	12.5	.7	.3
Employment	12.0	11.2	11.7	.8	.3
Unemployment	.8	.9	.8	-.1	0
Unemployment Rate	*5.9*	*7.4*	*6.3*	*-1.5*	*-.4*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A 40-unit motor hotel and mini-convention center is in the planning stages in Chinook. The two-story complex would house a swimming pool, coffee shop, dining room, banquet facilities, cocktail lounge, a multi-use area and a raquetball court. A Chinook bank will undergo extensive remodeling which should be completed in September of this year. The total cost of the project amounts to about $385,000.

Several businesses have annouced plans to build in Havre. An anhydrous ammonia storage facility is planned west of the city contingent on site approval by the zoning board. Preliminary approval has been given for a 58-unit trailer park. A motel and office building are also in the works. Construction has begun on the new facilities of two local groceries. A fast-food restaurant has started work on its building.

Some local grain elevators will be modified this summer to handle 52 car unit grain trains. The expansion program will involve primarily trackage. Sidings will be extended to handle the 52 grain cars involved in the loadings. The program is the result of long-range studies done by the company and will cost more than $1.6 million statewide.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	28.3	28.0	28.1	.3	.2
Employment	26.9	26.4	26.6	.5	.3
Unemployment	1.4	1.6	1.5	-.2	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*5.1*	*5.8*	*5.3*	*-.7*	*-.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The affect of federal and state budget cuts is presenting problems in Helena where the economy is dependent on government employment. Some state employees have already received pink slips and others may be given out as the current fiscal years (state and federal) end. It is estimated that about 460 full-time equivalent positions will be eliminated or shuffled into other departments. Many of the positions are currently vacant due to hiring freezes that were imposed earlier this year by department heads. Not all of these are in Helena, but most of them are since the central offices of the state agencies are located there. Estimates of the total number of employees that will be laid off from permanent positions by July 1 may be as high as 150.

Bids for some highway construction jobs have been opened in the area. The apparent low bid was $3.4 million to replace the condemned bridge on the York Road. About ten miles of guardrail will be installed on U.S. 287 between Townsend and Toston at a cost of $79,823. Remodeling of the rest areas on Interstate 15 between Helena and Great Falls has been bid at $18,850. The Highway Commission reviews these bids before the contracts are awarded.

A sawmill that has been closed down since late last fall was reopened. As of March 30, the mill had 55 people employed and working full-time and expected to add 13 more as the weather improved. A new restaurant and bar opened in Helena employing approximately thirty people. Inquiries have been received by the Job Service on the availability of help from two small out-of-state firms that plan on locating here.

The State's biennial legislature comes to a close near the end of April and the temporary positive influence to Helena's economy is withdrawn. As the legislators and other people who came to town because of the session leave, a rather large payroll that is spent in the area ends. The lack of this extra spending will be felt by the local retail and service industries. Many people who work at the capitol to help with the legislation will be laid off and seeking new employment.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	37.0	35.7	37.3	1.3	-.3
Employment	32.5	31.5	33.1	1.0	-.6
Unemployment	4.5	4.2	4.2	.3	.3
Unemployment Rate	*12.1*	*11.9*	*11.2*	*.2*	*.9*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Kalispell LMA reported little change during this reporting period. The manufacturing industry remains pretty much the same with the lumber mills nearly halted due to the depressed lumber market. Due to exceptionally good weather, spring break-up in the logging industry may be very short. However, the mills may not accept many logs because they are trying to control their inventories.

The new brake shoe manufacturing plant is installing the machinery and preparing to start production. The plant is expected to open sometime in May. Besides this, no other activity is anticipated that would increase payrolls in the manufacturing industry.

In Polson there is $64,000 available to homeowners in the west side project. Homeowners can get this money in the form of loans, grants and deferred loans. This is part of a total of $400,000 that will be spent on housing rehabilitation, street paving, storm sewers and water facilities in the area this summer. Work continues on the new airport terminal for Flathead County. The expected completion date is sometime this summer.

In the agricultural sector, seed potato sorting and shipping continues. Spring work creates a need for general farm and ranch hands.

Layoffs are expected as a telephone company in Libby announced a staff cut of five persons. At the same time, 16 workers are returning to work at an aluminum plant in Columbia Falls. The persons returning to work at this plant are persons with seniority status.

LEWISTOWN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	10.3	9.7	10.4	.6	-.1
Employment	9.8	9.2	9.9	.6	-.1
Unemployment	.5	.5	.5	0	0
Unemployment Rate	*4.7*	*5.5*	*4.5*	*-.8*	*.2*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

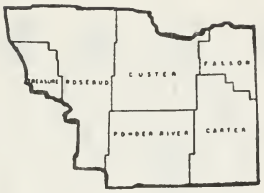
Warmer weather in the area had a noticeable effect on the economy this period. Workers were called back in agriculture, construction, and logging industries as employers began operations again. Calving operations slowed down and spring field work activity increased in agriculture. There was a steady demand through the period for both temporary and year-round workers in ag-related occupations.

Work continued on several large construction projects. More construction workers were called back from lay-off status; however, these were mostly in building trades--there were no reports of road crews being called back. An announcement was made of a plan to convert an old hospital into 35 apartments; no date was mentioned for when work might begin.

Activity in other occupations was steady. There was little hiring in retail and service industries; though, many merchants report business is up a little over last year.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)



	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	16.7	16.3	15.7	.4	1.0
Employment	15.9	15.4	15.0	.5	.9
Unemployment	.8	.9	.7	-.1	.1
Unemployment Rate	*4.7*	*5.5*	*4.7*	*-.8*	*0*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Continued moderate climate has allowed ongoing construction projects to progress ahead of schedule, but new construction work is very limited. In Miles City, the only major construction projects thus far announced are a new lodge being built at a state institution and a small shopping complex that includes a convenience store, car wash, laundromat and doughnut shop. Miles City's housing development is also having a slow start as indicated by the following January-March total new home permits: 1981 - 4, 1980 - 8, and 1979 - 34.

Construction on Colstrip electric generating units 3 and 4 is now 17 percent complete. The work force total is now about 1,200 and should approach 2,000 by this fall. Unit 3 is planned for operation by October, 1983 and unit 4 in April, 1985. Turn-around (overhauling plants 1 and 2) is scheduled to begin the first part of April. This work will involve about 200 trade union personnel for two months.

A Colstrip banker requested from the Montana Board of Housing special assistance to deal with a boom-town housing crisis. The sudden pressure of energy development has Colstrip currently growing by 50 people per week and housing is at a premium. Specifically, the board has been asked to channel some of its reserve funds into home financing in Colstrip.

Most of the LMA is in need of moisture. Many area ranchers are still giving supplemental feed. College students are starting to register for summer work at the Job Service office. The retail trade industry has stabilized for the moment with hopes of moisture in the near future.

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	49.8	49.0	49.0	.8	.8
Employment	45.1	43.9	45.0	1.2	.1
Unemployment	4.7	5.1	4.0	-.4	.7
Unemployment Rate	*9.4*	*10.4*	*8.1*	*-1.0*	*1.3*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A major redevelopment for downtown Missoula has been proposed. The plan would include renovation of a hotel, construction of a restaurant, retail and office space, an indoor skating rink, medium income housing, a health club, and multi-screen theater. Covered walkways would be constructed throughout the facility. To become a reality, $20 million in private and public must be located.

Other future developments have been approved. The Missoula City Council ratified a $4 million plan for more downtown parking space. Ravalli County Commissioners have endorsed $500,000 in industrial bonds for the construction of a research laboratory near Corvallis. State legislators will commit $8.6 million for a fine arts building at the University of Montana if the university raises $1.1 million of the building costs from private sources. In Missoula, a new hospital is planned to start construction in the summer of 1982. A 38-unit apartment valued at $1 million has been issued a building permit by the Missoula officials. A plastic manufacturer in Hamilton has secured a large contract to produce military helmets.

New single dwelling building permits issued by the Missoula City-County planning board are less than the previous two years first quarter permits. The January-March totals are as follows: 1981 - 21, 1980 - 60, and 1979 - 96.

The lumber industry continues its on again-off again employment activity. A mill in Conner has curtailed one shift of workers indefinitely, while another mill at Trout Creek is back to full production after a two week shutdown.

The Lolo National Forest budget has been reduced by 15 percent. Forced reduction include several campground closures, and fewer firefighters, eliminating the Youth Conservation Corps. Also, timber sales for 1982 will be affected. The permanent work force of 400 will be reduced by 10 percent during the next year.

SHELBY - CUT BANK LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation

(In Thousands)

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Changes to Current Month From: Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Civilian Labor Force	17.2	16.5	16.9	.7	.3
Employment	16.2	15.4	15.8	.8	.4
Unemployment	1.0	1.1	1.1	-.1	-.1
Unemployment Rate	*6.0*	*6.7*	*6.3*	*-.7*	*-.3*

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Activity in the Shelby-Cut Bank LMA consists of oil and gas exploration in Choteau, a new water district in Loma and ongoing construction projects. The retail and service industries are beginning to pick up with the spring weather. Agricultural activity notes several new hires with spring farm and ranch work beginning.

Three contracts were awarded to low bidders for the Loma water district project. The first was a $581,520 bid for water system intake, treatment, storage and pumping. The second bid was for $119,026 to construct a municiple water system, and the third was a $879,962 bid for a rural water system. The bid schedule call for a 180 day construction period. The completion date is anticipated to be in the fall of 1981.

Choteau's population has grown by 150 persons due to the influx of workers on survey and drilling crews. The retail and service industry has grown substantially busier since the crews have moved in and all motels and hotels in the Choteau area are reported full.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Insured Unemployment*		
	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980
Non-White	*15.8%*	*15.7%*	*14.8%*
Female	*18.7%*	*19.0%*	*18.3%*
Youth	*4.9%*	*5.2%*	*6.9%*
Over 45	*22.0%*	*21.6%*	*21.9%*

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S. 1/

All Items

(1967 = 100)

	1979		1980		1981	
	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-U	CPI-W
January	204.7	204.7	233.2	233.3	260.5	260.7
February	207.1	207.1	236.4	236.5	263.2	263.5
March	209.1	209.3	239.8	239.9	265.1	265.2
April	211.5	211.8	242.5	242.6		
May	214.1	214.3	244.9	245.1		
June	216.6	216.9	247.6	247.8		
July	218.9	219.4	247.8	248.0		
August	221.1	221.5	249.4	249.6		
September	223.4	223.7	251.7	251.9		
October	225.4	225.6	253.9	254.1		
November	227.5	227.6	256.2	256.4		
December	229.9	230.0	258.4	258.7		
AVERAGE	217.4	217.7	246.8	247.0		

1/ *The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of goods and services in major expenditure groups. The CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) covers about 40 percent of the total noninstitutional population. The CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) covers about 80 percent of the total noninstitutional population, including wage earners and clerical workers, salaried workers, the self-employed, retirees, and the unemployed.*

Table I

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ Montana	Percent 1/ U. S.	
1979								
January	348.7	321.0	299.5	21.3	27.7	*7.9*	*6.4*	*
February	349.2	324.6	301.4	23.2	24.6	*7.1*	*6.4*	1.1
March	353.7	331.1	303.3	27.8	22.6	*6.4*	*6.1*	*
April	364.2	343.8	309.6	34.2	20.4	*5.6*	*5.5*	*
May	373.0	356.0	320.7	35.3	17.0	*4.6*	*5.2*	.1
June	391.6	371.2	331.0	40.2	20.4	*5.2*	*6.0*	.1
July	388.5	370.9	327.9	43.0	17.6	*4.5*	*5.8*	*
August	391.1	375.4	329.4	46.0	15.7	*4.0*	*5.9*	.1
September	381.0	367.4	331.5	35.9	13.6	*3.6*	*5.6*	*
October	371.1	357.2	326.7	30.5	13.0	*3.8*	*5.6*	*
November	365.3	349.7	323.5	26.2	15.6	*4.3*	*5.6*	*
December	362.6	343.8	321.2	22.6	18.8	*5.2*	*5.6*	*
Avg.	370.0	351.0	318.8	32.2	19.0	*5.1*	*5.8*	.1
1980								
January	354.8	329.9	309.1	20.8	24.9	*7.0*	*6.8*	.7
February	356.4	332.6	310.0	22.6	23.8	*6.7*	*6.8*	1.1
March	363.0	339.6	312.4	27.2	23.4	*6.5*	*6.6*	.7
April	370.7	347.2	313.8	33.4	23.5	*6.4*	*6.6*	.3
May	377.1	357.6	323.2	34.4	19.5	*5.2*	*7.0*	.2
June	394.7	370.9	331.7	39.2	23.8	*6.0*	*7.8*	.2
July	390.4	366.3	324.3	42.0	24.1	*6.2*	*7.9*	2.7
August	393.8	372.7	327.8	44.9	21.1	*5.4*	*7.5*	2.6
September	381.5	363.0	328.0	35.0	18.5	*4.8*	*7.1*	3.1
October	372.2	353.7	323.9	29.8	18.4	*5.0*	*7.1*	1.3
November	368.4	348.3	322.7	25.6	20.1	*5.5*	*7.1*	1.3
December	364.7	342.1	320.1	22.0	22.6	*6.2*	*6.9*	*
Avg.	374.0	352.0	320.6	31.4	22.0	*6.0*	*7.1*	1.2
1981								
January	354.6	328.1	307.3	20.8	26.5	*7.5*	*8.2*	*
February	362.4	334.9	312.8	22.1	27.5	*7.6*	*8.0*	*1.0*
March	370.9	345.3	318.8	26.5	25.6	*6.9*	*7.7*	*
April	*372.3*	*349.4*	*316.8*	*32.6*	*22.9*	*6.2*		*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1980 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1979								
January	33.3	30.2	29.4	.8	3.1	*9.4*	*7.9*	*
February	33.1	30.4	29.5	.9	2.7	*8.3*	*7.1*	*
March	33.5	31.0	29.9	1.1	2.5	*7.5*	*6.4*	*
April	33.9	31.7	30.3	1.4	2.2	*6.5*	*5.6*	*
May	34.4	32.5	31.1	1.4	1.9	*5.5*	*4.6*	*
June	35.1	32.9	31.3	1.6	2.2	*6.2*	*5.2*	*
July	35.0	32.9	31.2	1.7	2.1	*6.0*	*4.5*	*
August	35.0	33.1	31.3	1.8	1.9	*5.5*	*4.0*	*
September	34.5	32.8	31.4	1.4	1.7	*4.8*	*3.6*	*
October	33.3	31.9	30.7	1.2	1.4	*4.1*	*3.8*	*
November	33.2	31.4	30.4	1.0	1.8	*5.4*	*4.3*	*
December	32.9	31.0	30.1	.9	1.9	*5.7*	*5.2*	*
Avg.	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	*6.2*	*5.1*	*
1980								
January	33.0	30.5	29.7	.8	2.5	*7.7*	*7.0*	*
February	33.0	30.7	29.8	.9	2.3	*7.0*	*6.7*	*
March	33.7	31.5	30.4	1.1	2.2	*6.6*	*6.5*	*
April	33.5	31.4	30.1	1.3	2.1	*6.3*	*6.4*	*
May	34.4	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.0	*5.6*	*5.2*	.2
June	34.8	32.1	30.5	1.6	2.7	*7.7*	*6.0*	.2
July	35.3	32.6	30.9	1.7	2.7	*7.8*	*6.2*	.5
August	35.5	33.1	31.3	1.8	2.4	*6.8*	*5.4*	.4
September	34.8	32.7	31.5	1.2	2.1	*6.0*	*4.8*	.4
October	34.1	31.8	30.5	1.2	2.3	*6.9*	*5.0*	*
November	34.1	31.7	30.7	1.0	2.4	*7.0*	*5.5*	*
December	34.0	31.5	30.5	1.0	2.5	*7.3*	*6.2*	*
Avg.	34.2	31.8	30.6	1.2	2.4	*6.9*	*6.0*	.2
1981								
January	33.5	30.8	30.0	.8	2.7	*8.1*	*7.5*	*
February	34.2	31.3	30.4	.9	2.9	*8.5*	*7.6*	*
March	34.6	32.0	31.0	1.0	2.6	*7.6*	*6.9*	*
April	*34.6*	*32.3*	*31.0*	*1.3*	*2.3*	*6.8*	*6.2*	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1980 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1979								
January	53.2	50.0	49.0	1.0	3.2	*6.0*	*7.9*	*
February	53.0	50.3	49.2	1.1	2.7	*5.1*	*7.1*	*
March	53.0	50.6	49.3	1.3	2.4	*4.5*	*6.4*	*
April	54.2	52.1	50.5	1.6	2.1	*3.8*	*5.6*	*
May	54.8	53.1	51.5	1.6	1.7	*3.1*	*4.6*	*
June	57.2	55.0	53.2	1.8	2.2	*3.8*	*5.2*	*
July	56.0	54.2	52.2	2.0	1.8	*3.2*	*4.5*	*
August	57.0	55.3	53.2	2.1	1.7	*3.0*	*4.0*	*
September	56.3	54.8	53.2	1.6	1.5	*2.6*	*3.6*	*
October	55.7	54.2	52.8	1.4	1.5	*2.6*	*3.8*	*
November	55.7	54.0	52.8	1.2	1.7	*3.1*	*4.3*	*
December	55.3	53.3	52.3	1.0	2.0	*3.7*	*5.2*	*
Avg.	55.1	53.1	51.6	1.5	2.0	*3.7*	*5.1*	*
1980								
January	54.9	52.0	51.0	1.0	2.9	*5.3*	*7.0*	.6
February	55.1	52.2	51.2	1.0	2.9	*5.3*	*6.7*	.7
March	55.4	52.5	51.3	1.2	2.9	*5.3*	*6.5*	.3
April	55.5	53.0	51.5	1.5	2.5	*4.4*	*6.4*	*
May	56.1	54.0	52.4	1.6	2.1	*3.8*	*5.2*	*
June	58.5	55.6	53.8	1.8	2.9	*5.0*	*6.0*	*
July	57.8	54.9	53.0	1.9	2.9	*5.0*	*6.2*	*
August	58.2	55.6	53.5	2.1	2.6	*4.5*	*5.4*	*
September	57.7	55.4	54.0	1.4	2.3	*4.0*	*4.8*	*
October	57.2	55.0	53.6	1.4	2.2	*3.8*	*5.0*	*
November	57.0	54.8	53.6	1.2	2.2	*3.8*	*5.5*	*
December	57.3	54.7	53.7	1.0	2.6	*4.5*	*6.2*	*
Avg.	56.7	54.1	52.7	1.4	2.6	*4.6*	*6.0*	.1
1981								
January	55.8	52.7	51.8	.9	3.1	*5.6*	*7.5*	*
February	57.1	53.8	52.8	1.0	3.3	*5.8*	*7.6*	*
March	57.7	54.7	53.5	1.2	3.0	*5.1*	*6.9*	*
April	*58.5*	*55.8*	*54.4*	*1.5*	*2.7*	*4.6*	*6.2*	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1980 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

In Thousands

INDUSTRY	March 1981	Feb. 1981	March 1980	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1981	March 1980
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1/]	370.9	362.4	363.0	8.5	7.9
EMPLOYED PERSONS	345.3	334.9	339.6	10.4	5.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	26.5	22.1	27.2	4.4	-.7
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	25.6	27.5	23.4	-1.9	2.2
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2/]	6.9	7.6	6.5	- .7	.4
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2/]	5.9	6.2	5.8	- .3	.1
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	276.4	275.2	274.6	1.2	1.8
MANUFACTURING	22.6	22.6	24.2	0	-1.6
Durable Goods	13.7	13.7	15.6	0	-1.9
24 Lumber and Wood Products	9.0	8.9	9.3	.1	-.3
33 Primary Metal Industries	1.9	1.9	3.1	0	-1.2
Other Durable Goods	2.8	2.8	3.2	0	-.4
Nondurable Goods	8.9	8.9	8.5	0	.4
20 Food and Kindred Products	3.9	3.9	3.9	0	0
27 Printing and Publishing	2.4	2.4	2.2	0	.2
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.0	1.0	.8	0	.2
Other Nondurable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	.1
MINING	7.7	7.7	8.4	0	-.7
10 Metal Mining	1.6	1.6	2.3	0	-.7
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	3.9	3.9	3.9	0	0
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	12.0	11.4	11.5	.6	.5
15 General Building Contractors	4.0	3.8	4.0	.2	0
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	3.1	2.6	2.5	.5	.6
17 Special Trade Contractors	4.9	5.0	5.0	-.1	-.1
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	23.4	23.3	22.5	.1	.9
40 Railroad Transportation	7.5	7.5	6.8	0	.7
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.2	6.2	6.4	0	-.2
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	9.7	9.6	9.3	.1	.4
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	70.6	70.1	70.3	.5	.3
Wholesale Trade	18.0	17.9	17.5	.1	.5
Retail Trade	52.6	52.2	52.8	.4	-.2
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	7.7	7.7	7.9	0	-.2
54 Food Stores	7.6	7.8	7.7	-.2	-.1
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	7.7	7.6	7.8	.1	-.1
58 Eating and Drinking Places	19.0	18.5	18.8	.5	.2
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	10.6	10.6	10.7	0	-.1
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	12.7	12.6	12.7	.1	0
SERVICES	56.4	56.3	54.5	.1	1.9
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	6.7	6.6	6.2	.1	.5
72 Personal Services	2.7	2.7	2.6	0	.1
80 Medical and other Health Services	18.6	18.6	18.0	0	.6
Other Services	28.3	28.3	27.6	0	.7
GOVERNMENT	71.0	71.1	70.6	-.1	.4
91 Federal Government	13.0	12.8	12.6	.2	.4
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.3	8.3	8.3	0	0
92 Other State Government	10.8	10.8	10.7	0	.1
93 Local Education	25.0	24.9	25.3	.1	-.3
93 Other Local Government	14.0	14.3	13.8	0	.2

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1980 Benchmarks.

2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(Establishment Data in italics)

TABLE V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	March 1981	Feb. 1981	March 1980	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1981	March 1980
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS 1/	34.6	34.2	33.7	.4	.9
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.0	31.3	31.5	.7	.5
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.0	.9	1.1	.1	-.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.6	2.9	2.2	-.3	.4
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted2/	*7.6*	*8.5*	*6.6*	*-1.1*	*1.0*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted2/	*7.0*	*7.4*	*6.0*	*-.4*	*1.0*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	29.2	28.8	29.0	.4	.2
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.7	0	-.4
Contract Construction	1.4	1.2	1.3	.2	.1
Transportation and Public Utilities	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	.1
Trade	9.5	9.4	9.3	.1	.2
Wholesale Trade	3.0	3.0	2.8	0	.2
Retail Trade	6.5	6.4	6.6	.1	-.1
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.0	2.0	2.1	0	-.1
Services and Mining	7.0	6.9	7.0	.1	0
Government	6.1	6.0	5.9	.1	.2
Federal Government	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
State and Local Government	4.3	4.3	4.1	0	.2

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Current month preliminary *Revised to 1980 Benchmarks*

TABLE VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	March 1981	Feb. 1981	March 1980	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1981	March 1980
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	57.7	57.1	55.4	.6	2.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	54.7	53.8	52.5	.9	2.2
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.2	1.0	1.2	.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	3.0	3.3	2.9	-.3	.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.1*	*5.8*	*5.3*	*-.6*	*-.2*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.4*	*4.8*	*4.5*	*-.4*	*-.1*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	47.5	46.9	45.9	.6	1.6
Manufacturing	4.1	4.1	4.0	0	.1
Contract Construction	2.5	2.1	2.0	.4	.5
Transportation and Public Utilties	4.8	4.8	4.5	0	.3
Trade	15.5	15.5	15.6	0	-.1
Wholesale Trade	5.7	5.7	5.6	0	.1
Retail Trade	9.8	9.7	10.0	.1	-.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.3	2.2	2.2	.1	.1
Services and Mining	10.2	10.2	9.7	0	.5
Government	8.1	8.1	7.8	0	.3
Federal Government	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
State and Local Government	6.6	6.5	6.3	.1	.3

[1] *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.*

[2] *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Current month preliminary

Revised to 1980 Benchmarks

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			3/ UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1981	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1981	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1981	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1981
STATEWIDE	354.6	362.4	370.9	328.1	334.9	345.3	26.5	27.5	25.6	*7.5*	*7.6*	*6.9*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.5	34.2	34.6	30.8	31.3	32.0	2.7	2.9	2.6	*8.1*	*8.5*	*7.6*
BILLINGS SMSA	55.8	57.1	57.7	52.7	53.8	54.7	3.1	3.3	3.0	*5.6*	*5.8*	*5.1*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	265.3	271.0	278.6	244.7	249.7	258.6	20.6	21.3	20.0	*7.8*	*7.9*	*7.2*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	33.5	34.0	34.6	30.7	31.1	31.9	2.8	2.9	2.7	*8.5*	*8.5*	*7.7*
BOZEMAN	24.9	25.3	25.8	23.2	23.5	24.2	1.7	1.8	1.6	*6.9*	*7.1*	*6.2*
GLASGOW	15.5	16.1	17.0	14.7	15.2	16.1	.8	.9	.9	*5.2*	*5.6*	*5.1*
GLENDIVE	14.7	15.0	15.7	14.3	14.6	15.3	.4	.4	.4	*3.0*	*2.7*	*2.7*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.9	13.1	13.3	12.1	12.3	12.6	.8	.8	.7	*5.9*	*6.5*	*5.4*
HAVRE	11.8	12.1	12.8	10.9	11.2	12.0	.9	.9	.8	*7.3*	*7.4*	*5.9*
HELENA	27.4	28.0	28.3	25.7	26.4	26.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.1*
KALISPELL	35.1	35.7	37.0	31.1	31.5	32.5	4.0	4.2	4.5	*11.4*	*11.9*	*12.1*
LEWISTOWN	9.5	9.7	10.3	8.9	9.2	9.8	.6	.5	.5	*5.9*	*5.5*	*4.7*
MILES CITY	15.7	16.3	16.7	14.8	15.4	15.9	.9	.9	.8	*5.5*	*5.5*	*4.7*
MISSOULA	48.2	49.0	49.8	43.3	43.9	45.1	4.9	5.1	4.7	*10.3*	*10.4*	*9.4*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.2	16.5	17.2	15.1	15.4	16.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	*6.8*	*6.7*	*6.0*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
3/ Unemployment rate is computed from whole numbers.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			3/ UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	Percent Change 1980-1981	Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	Percent Change 1980-1981	Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Change 1980-1981	Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	Net Change 1980-1981
STATEWIDE	370.9	362.9	*.2*	345.3	339.5	*1.7*	25.6	23.4	*2.2*	6.9	6.5	*.4*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.6	33.6	*3.0*	32.0	31.4	*1.9*	2.6	2.2	*.4*	7.6	6.6	*1.0*
BILLINGS SMSA	57.7	55.4	*4.2*	54.7	52.5	*4.4*	3.0	2.9	*.1*	5.1	5.3	*-.2*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	278.6	273.9	*1.7*	258.6	255.6	*1.2*	20.0	18.3	*1.7*	7.2	6.7	*.5*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.6	33.9	*2.1*	31.9	31.9	*0*	2.7	2.0	*.7*	7.7	5.9	*1.8*
BOZEMAN	25.8	26.2	*-1.5*	24.2	24.5	*-1.2*	1.6	1.7	*-.1*	6.2	6.4	*-.2*
GLASGOW	17.0	16.2	*4.9*	16.1	15.5	*3.9*	.9	.7	*.2*	5.1	4.5	*-.6*
GLENDIVE	15.7	14.9	*5.4*	15.3	14.4	*6.3*	.4	.5	*-.1*	2.7	3.4	*-.7*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.3	12.8	*3.9*	12.6	12.1	*4.1*	.7	.7	*0*	5.4	5.4	*0*
HAVRE	12.8	12.5	*2.4*	12.0	11.7	*2.6*	.8	.8	*0*	5.9	6.3	*-.4*
HELENA	28.3	28.1	*.7*	26.9	26.6	*1.1*	1.4	1.5	*-.1*	5.1	5.3	*-.2*
KALISPELL	37.0	37.3	*-.8*	32.5	33.1	*-1.8*	4.5	4.2	*.3*	12.1	11.2	*.9*
LEWISTOWN	10.3	10.4	*-1.0*	9.8	9.9	*-1.0*	.5	.5	*0*	4.7	4.5	*.2*
MILES CITY	16.7	15.7	*6.4*	15.9	15.0	*6.0*	.8	.7	*.1*	4.7	4.7	*0*
MISSOULA	49.8	49.0	*1.6*	45.1	45.0	*.2*	4.7	4.0	*.7*	9.4	8.1	*1.3*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	17.2	16.9	*1.8*	16.2	15.8	*2.5*	1.0	1.1	*-.1*	6.0	6.3	*-.3*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
3/ Unemployment rate is computed from whole unrounded numbers.

TABLE IX-A

February 1981

(Revised)

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	362368	334862	27506	7.6
CASCADE	34214	31318	2896	8.5
YELLOWSTONE	57123	53819	3304	5.8
BEAVERHEAD	3954	3740	214	5.4
BIG HORN	5528	5095	433	7.8
BLAINE	2667	2382	285	10.7
BROADWATER	1270	1157	113	8.9
CARBON	3335	3155	180	5.4
CARTER	719	704	15	2.1
CHOUTEAU	2630	2562	68	2.6
CUSTER	6171	5794	377	6.1
DANIELS	1348	1269	79	5.9
DAWSON	5724	5540	184	3.2
DEER LODGE	4789	3925	864	18.0
FALLON	2286	2244	42	1.8
FERGUS	5494	5161	333	6.1
FLATHEAD	22040	19616	2424	11.0
GALLATIN	18700	17566	1134	6.1
GARFIELD	761	751	10	1.3
GLACIER	5404	4762	642	11.9
GOLDEN VALLEY	345	327	18	5.2
GRANITE	1102	1020	82	7.4
HILL	8421	7833	588	7.0
JEFFERSON	2316	2144	172	7.4
JUDITH BASIN	999	949	50	5.0
LAKE	7283	6573	710	9.7
LEWIS AND CLARK	24466	23122	1344	5.5
LIBERTY	1044	1014	30	2.9
LINCOLN	6417	5290	1127	17.6
MC CONE	1069	1049	20	1.9
MADISON	2127	1986	141	6.6
MEAGHER	1012	918	94	9.3
MINERAL	1846	1622	224	12.1
MISSOULA	36125	32726	3399	9.4
MUSSELSHELL	1527	1460	67	4.4
PARK	5603	5024	579	10.3
PETROLEUM	267	245	22	8.2
PHILLIPS	2945	2779	166	5.6
PONDERA	3367	3221	146	4.3
POWDER RIVER	1070	1044	26	2.4
POWELL	3573	3343	230	6.4
PRAIRIE	787	755	32	4.1
RAVALLI	7179	6172	1006	14.0
RICHLAND	6006	5869	137	2.3
ROOSEVELT	4723	4439	284	6.0
ROSEBUD	5627	5206	421	7.5
SANDERS	3912	3416	496	12.7
SHERIDAN	2900	2864	36	1.2
SILVER BOW	18426	17060	1366	7.4
STILLWATER	2606	2433	173	6.6
SWEET GRASS	1656	1595	61	3.7
TETON	2588	2448	140	5.4
TOOLE	2476	2376	100	4.0
TREASURE	412	397	15	3.6
VALLEY	4236	3894	342	8.1
WHEATLAND	1126	1080	46	4.1
WIBAUX	628	609	19	3.0

TABLE IX-B

March 1981

(Preliminary)

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	370883	345325	25558	6.9
CASCADE	34596	31954	2642	7.6
YELLOWSTONE	57719	54752	2967	5.1
BEAVERHEAD	4162	3960	202	4.9
BIG HORN	5830	5431	399	6.8
BLAINE	2909	2686	223	7.7
BROADWATER	1380	1287	93	6.7
CARBON	3454	3293	161	4.7
CARTER	790	775	15	1.9
CHOUTEAU	2830	2770	60	2.1
CUSTER	6206	5876	330	5.3
DANIELS	1372	1336	36	2.6
DAWSON	5873	5777	196	3.3
DEER LODGE	4612	3789	823	17.8
FALLON	2415	2374	41	1.7
FERGUS	5737	5425	312	5.4
FLATHEAD	22606	20139	2467	10.9
GALLATIN	19033	18011	1022	5.4
GARFIELD	816	807	9	1.1
GLACIER	5553	4930	623	11.2
GOLDEN VALLEY	370	361	9	2.4
GRANITE	1152	1056	96	8.3
HILL	8728	8233	495	5.7
JEFFERSON	2337	2194	143	6.1
JUDITH BASIN	1064	1030	34	3.2
LAKE	7566	6953	613	8.1
LEWIS AND CLARK	24636	23432	1204	4.9
LIBERTY	1136	1106	30	2.6
LINCOLN	6844	5435	1409	20.6
MC CONE	1155	1136	19	1.6
MADISON	2233	2109	124	5.6
MEAGHER	1041	977	64	6.1
MINERAL	1808	1590	218	12.1
MISSOULA	36548	33510	3038	8.3
MUSSELSHELL	1673	1601	72	4.3
PARK	5751	5243	508	8.8
PETROLEUM	277	269	8	2.9
PHILLIPS	2902	2771	131	4.5
PONDERA	3508	3382	126	3.6
POWDER RIVER	1154	1123	31	2.7
POWELL	3758	3528	230	6.1
PRAIRIE	837	804	33	3.9
RAVALLI	7511	6568	943	12.6
RICHLAND	6302	6156	146	2.3
ROOSEVELT	5121	4821	300	5.9
ROSEBUD	5674	5314	360	6.3
SANDERS	3906	3421	485	12.4
SHERIDAN	2990	2940	50	1.7
SILVER BOW	18634	17434	1200	6.4
STILLWATER	2221	2111	110	5.0
SWEET GRASS	1826	1770	56	3.1
TETON	2681	2584	97	3.6
TOOLE	2651	2529	122	4.6
TREASURE	430	416	14	3.3
VALLEY	4618	4264	354	7.7
WHEATLAND	1178	1132	46	3.9
WIBAUX	669	650	19	2.8

1979 ANNUAL AVERAGES
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	370000 *	351000	19000	5.1
CASCADE	33918 *	31808 *	2110	6.2
YELLOWSTONE	55110 *	53074 *	2036 *	3.7
BEAVERHEAD	4100 *	3948 *	152	3.7
BIG HORN	5886 *	5590 *	296	5.0
BLAINE	3093	2879	214	6.9
BROADWATER	1632	1568	64	3.9
CARBON	3238 *	3097 *	141 *	4.4
CARTER	910	839	71	7.8
CHOUTEAU	2985 *	2919 *	66	2.2
CUSTER	5964 *	5759 *	205	3.4
DANIELS	1438	1409	29	2.0
DAWSON	5788 *	5588 *	200	3.5
DEER LODGE	5437 *	5057 *	380	7.0
FALLON	2291 *	2242 *	49	2.1
FERGUS	6079 *	5870 *	209	3.4
FLATHEAD	23492 *	21866 *	1626	6.9
GALLATIN	19646 *	18882 *	764	3.9
GARFIELD	846	806	40	4.7
GLACIER	5639 *	5161 *	478	8.5
GOLDEN VALLEY	402	385	17	4.2
GRANITE	1116	1030	86	7.7
HILL	8850 *	8479 *	371	4.2
JEFFERSON	2293 *	2121 *	172	7.5
JUDITH BASIN	1225 *	1124	101	8.2
LAKE	8119 *	7625 *	494	6.1
LEWIS AND CLARK	24404 *	23233 *	1171	4.8
LIBERTY	1127 *	1091 *	36	3.2
LINCOLN	7194 *	6444 *	750	10.4
MC CONE	1264 *	1243 *	21	1.7
MADISON	2439 *	2366 *	73	3.0
MEAGHER	1106	1062	44	4.0
MINERAL	1708 *	1579 *	129	7.6*
MISSOULA	36205 *	33954 *	2251	6.2
MUSSEL SHELL	1902 *	1853 *	49	2.6
PARK	5926 *	5608 *	318	5.4
PETROLEUM	333	328	5	1.5
PHILLIPS	2704 *	2603 *	101	3.7
PONDERA	3508 *	3378 *	130	3.7
POWDER RIVER	1284 *	1248 *	36	2.8
POWELL	3362 *	3171 *	191	5.7
PRAIRIE	874 *	850 *	24	2.7
RAVALLI	7904 *	7300 *	604	7.6
RICHLAND	5482 *	5377 *	105	1.9
ROOSEVELT	5341 *	5090 *	251	4.7
ROSEBUD	4575 *	4344 *	231	5.0
SANDERS	3879 *	3569 *	310	8.0
SHERIDAN	2865 *	2822 *	43*	1.5
SILVER BOW	18331 *	17195 *	1136	6.2
STILLWATER	2263	2188	75	3.3
SWEET GRASS	1722	1701	21	1.2
TETON	2860 *	2760 *	100	3.5
TOOLE	2819 *	2706 *	113	4.0
TREASURE	439	425	14	3.2
VALLEY	4767 *	4520 *	247*	5.2
WHEATLAND	1193	1165	28	2.3
WIBAUX	727	705	22	3.0

* Stars indicate correction to the 1980 Benchmark numbers published in February Labor Force.

TABLE X

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
				Net Change to Current Month From:					
	Mar. 1981 1/	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Total Mar. 1981	Percent Women	Total Feb. 1981	Percent Women
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	133.0	132.7	130.9	.3	2.1	276.4	48.1%	275.2	48.2%
Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	3.3	0	-.5	22.6	12.4%	22.6	12.4%
Mining	.5	.5	.5	0	0	7.7	6.5%	7.7	6.5%
Contract Construction	1.5	1.5	1.4	0	.1	12.0	12.5%	11.4	13.2%
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.3	4.3	4.3	0	0	23.4	18.4%	23.3	18.5%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	35.3	35.4	35.6	-.1	-.3	70.6	50.0%	70.1	50.5%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.3	8.3	8.4	0	-.1	12.7	65.4%	12.6	65.9%
Services	35.5	35.5	34.3	.2	1.2	56.4	62.9%	56.3	62.7%
Government 2/	44.7	44.6	43.1	.1	1.6	71.0	63.0%	71.1	62.7%

Revised to 1980 Benchmark. *Establishment Series began January 1974.*

1/ *Current month preliminary.*

2/ *Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.*

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

1980

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Non-agricultural Wage & Salary.	133.0	132.9	130.9	129.4	129.5	134.0	128.7	129.8	130.5	132.6	133.2	133.1	131.5
Manufacturing.....	3.4	3.3	3.3	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
Mining.....	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Contract Construction.....	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Transport. & Public Utilities..	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	36.5	36.5	35.6	35.7	36.0	35.9	36.2	36.1	35.9	35.9	36.1	36.7	36.1
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate...	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.4
Services.....	36.2	36.2	34.3	34.5	34.1	37.2	37.2	34.2	34.1	34.5	34.7	34.7	35.2
Government.....	42.5	42.5	43.1	41.9	42.1	43.3	37.6	41.7	42.9	43.8	44.6	43.9	42.5

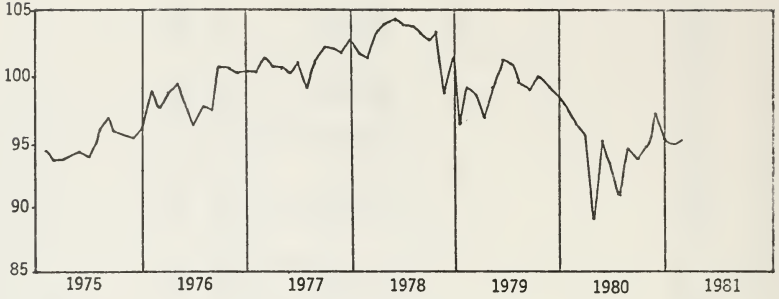
1981

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Non-agricultural Wage & Salary.	131.7	132.7	133.0
Manufacturing.....	2.9	2.8	2.8
Mining.....	.5	.5	.5
Contract Construction.....	1.5	1.5	1.5
Transport. & Public Utilities..	4.4	4.3	4.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade.....	35.5	35.4	35.3
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate...	8.4	8.3	8.3
Services.....	34.5	35.5	35.5
Government.....	44.0	44.6	44.7

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1980 Benchmark.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Monthly Figures of Composite Index

1972 = 100

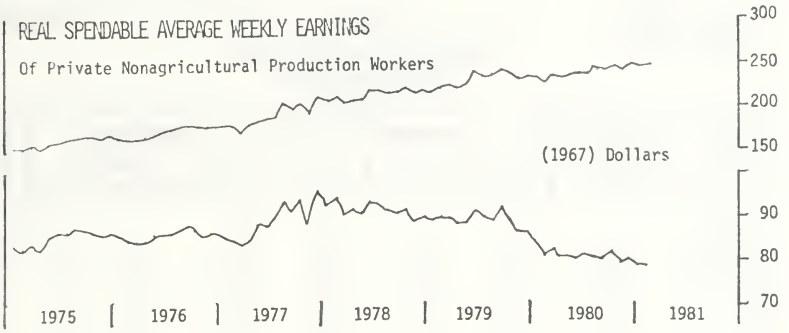
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
January	94.8	99.1	100.4	101.9	96.8	97.2	95.1
February	94.1	97.9	101.6	101.7	99.3	96.2	95.4
March	94.2	98.6	100.8	103.5	98.9	95.4	
April	94.4	99.5	100.8	104.2	97.2	88.6	
May	94.6	98.4	100.4	104.3	99.4	94.3	
June	96.5	96.8	101.1	104.0	101.3	92.6	
July	96.3	98.0	99.4	103.8	101.0	90.4	
August	97.7	97.9	101.2	103.2	99.8	93.9	
September	96.3	100.8	102.3	102.8	99.6	93.3	
October	96.1	100.7	102.2	103.6	100.5	95.0	
November	95.8	100.5	101.9	99.0	99.8	97.4	
December	96.5	100.5	102.9	101.5	98.7	95.5	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

After two months of decline, the Composite Index moved upward again to 95.4. One reason for the increase was the manufacturing layoff rate dropped from 3.0 in January to 1.5 in February. Two other components registering positive movement were manufacturing average weekly hours and manufacturing employment. Average weekly initial claims and building permits both showed substantial negative movement during February. No big change is expected in the Composite Index during March.

Components of Composite Index:

Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits; and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.



	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1981	Feb. 1980
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	247.52	245.28	224.93
3/ Taxes Withheld	41.46	40.81	33.87
Spendable Earnings	206.06	204.48	191.06
Adjustment for Price Changes since 1967	127.86	126.04	110.27
Real Spendable Earnings	78.20	78.44	80.79

	1) Average Weekly Earnings			2) Real Spendable Earnings		
	1981	1980	1979	1981	1980	1979
January	245.28	232.60	215.42	78.44	84.36	89.20
Febuary	247.52	224.93	219.57	78.20	80.79	89.60
March		234.24	221.43		82.44	89.29
April		232.23	220.68		80.94	88.10
May		234.15	225.42		80.67	88.52
June		234.97	236.99		80.02	91.26
July		238.82	233.87		81.08	89.41
August		239.47	234.99		80.75	88.73
September		241.60	238.74		80.63	91.96
October		246.66	236.90		81.37	89.02
November		241.89	230.62		79.29	86.22
December		247.75	233.24		80.21	86.12

Real Spendable Earnings

Real spendable average weekly earnings continued to fall due to the rising rate of inflation. Real spendable earnings dropped from $78.44 per week to $78.20 per week. These numbers are considerably lower than real spendable earnings of $80.79 in February, 1980. Gross average weekly earnings rose back to the December 1980 level after a slight decrease in January. Gross earnings of $247.52 in February compare to $224.93 in February, 1980.

1/ Average Weekly earnings of total private nonagricultrual production workers.
2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.
3/ Taxes computed on family with four exemptions.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	Percent[1] U. S.	
1979								
January	369.7	347.0	314.4	32.6	22.7	*6.1*	*5.8*	*
February	369.0	348.3	315.7	32.6	20.9	*5.6*	*5.7*	.1
March	367.1	347.4	314.9	32.5	19.7	*5.4*	*5.7*	*
April	368.7	348.7	316.3	32.4	20.0	*5.4*	*5.8*	*
May	370.5	351.1	318.8	32.3	19.4	*5.2*	*5.8*	.1
June	372.7	354.0	321.8	32.2	18.7	*5.0*	*5.7*	.1
July	368.0	349.9	317.8	32.1	18.1	*4.9*	*5.7*	*
August	368.1	350.6	318.6	32.0	17.5	*4.8*	*5.9*	.1
September	370.2	352.6	320.6	32.0	17.6	*4.8*	*5.8*	*
October	371.9	354.2	322.2	32.0	17.7	*4.8*	*5.9*	*
November	371.9	354.4	322.4	32.0	17.5	*4.7*	*5.8*	*
December	372.4	353.8	321.8	32.0	18.6	*5.0*	*5.9*	*
Avg.	370.0	351.0	318.8	32.2	19.0	*5.1*	*5.8*	.1
1980								
January	375.7	355.8	323.8	32.0	19.9	*5.3*	*6.2*	.7
February	376.1	356.3	324.4	31.9	19.8	*5.3*	*6.2*	1.1
March	376.5	355.9	324.2	31.7	20.6	*5.8*	*6.3*	.7
April	375.2	352.2	320.7	31.5	23.0	*6.1*	*6.9*	.3
May	374.4	352.5	321.1	31.4	21.9	*5.9*	*7.6*	.2
June	376.0	353.9	322.7	31.2	22.1	*5.9*	*7.5*	.2
July	370.0	345.4	314.3	31.1	24.6	*6.7*	*7.6*	2.7
August	370.9	348.0	317.0	31.0	22.9	*6.2*	*7.6*	2.6
September	370.7	348.2	317.0	31.2	22.5	*6.1*	*7.4*	3.1
October	372.9	350.6	319.3	31.3	22.3	*6.0*	*7.6*	1.3
November	375.2	353.1	321.8	31.3	22.1	*5.9*	*7.5*	1.3
December	374.6	352.2	320.8	31.4	22.4	*6.0*	*7.4*	*
Avg.	374.0	352.0	320.6	31.4	22.0	*6.0*	*7.1*	1.2
1981								
January	375.5	354.1	322.7	31.4	21.4	*5.7*	*7.4*	*
February	382.0	358.5	327.2	31.3	23.5	*6.2*	*7.3*	*1.0*
March	*384.4*	*361.7*	*330.7*	*31.0*	*22.7*	*5.9*	*7.3*	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1980 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1979								
January	34.4	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.6	7.6	6.1	*
February	34.5	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.5	7.3	5.6	*
March	34.1	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.3	6.8	5.4	*
April	34.3	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.3	6.8	5.4	*
May	34.2	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.2	6.6	5.2	*
June	33.8	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.0	5.8	5.0	*
July	34.0	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.1	6.1	4.9	*
August	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	6.1	4.8	*
September	33.7	31.8	30.5	1.3	1.9	5.7	4.8	*
October	33.3	31.7	30.4	1.3	1.6	4.7	4.8	*
November	33.5	31.6	30.3	1.3	1.9	5.6	4.7	*
December	33.5	31.6	30.3	1.3	1.9	5.6	5.0	*
Avg.	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	6.2	5.1	*
1980								
January	34.1	32.1	30.8	1.3	2.0	5.9	5.3	*
February	34.5	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.1	6.0	5.3	*
March	34.4	32.3	31.0	1.3	2.1	6.0	5.5	*
April	33.9	31.7	30.3	1.2	2.2	6.6	6.1	*
May	34.2	31.9	30.5	1.2	2.3	6.7	5.9	.2
June	33.5	31.0	29.6	1.2	2.5	7.5	5.9	.2
July	34.4	31.7	30.3	1.2	2.7	7.9	6.7	.5
August	34.3	31.7	30.3	1.2	2.6	7.4	6.2	.4
September	34.0	31.6	30.2	1.2	2.4	6.9	6.1	.4
October	34.2	31.6	30.2	1.2	2.6	7.5	6.0	*
November	34.4	31.9	30.5	1.2	2.5	7.2	5.9	*
December	34.5	32.0	30.6	1.2	2.5	7.2	6.0	*
Avg.	34.2	31.8	30.6	1.2	2.4	6.9	6.0	.2
1981								
January	34.5	32.3	31.1	1.2	2.2	6.3	5.7	*
February	35.6	32.9	31.7	1.2	2.7	7.4	6.2	*
March	35.3	32.8	31.6	1.2	2.5	7.0	5.9	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1980 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1979								
January	54.7	52.2	50.7	1.5	2.5	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
February	54.7	52.5	51.0	1.5	2.2	*4.1*	*5.6*	*
March	54.4	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.1	*3.8*	*5.4*	*
April	55.0	52.9	51.4	1.5	2.1	*3.9*	*5.4*	*
May	55.2	53.1	51.6	1.5	2.1	*3.8*	*5.2*	*
June	55.3	53.4	51.9	1.5	1.9	*3.5*	*5.0*	*
July	55.0	53.1	51.6	1.5	1.9	*3.4*	*4.9*	*
August	55.6	53.7	52.2	1.5	1.9	*3.4*	*4.8*	*
September	55.4	53.5	52.0	1.5	1.9	*3.3*	*4.8*	*
October	55.3	53.4	51.9	1.5	1.9	*3.4*	*4.8*	*
November	55.7	53.7	52.2	1.5	2.0	*3.6*	*4.7*	*
December	55.1	53.1	51.6	1.5	2.0	*3.6*	*5.0*	*
Avg.	55.1	53.1	51.6	1.5	2.0	*3.7*	*5.1*	*
1980								
January	56.3	54.1	52.6	1.5	2.2	*3.9*	*5.3*	.6
February	56.8	54.3	52.8	1.5	2.5	*4.4*	*5.3*	.7
March	56.7	54.2	52.7	1.5	2.5	*4.5*	*5.5*	.3
April	56.3	53.8	52.4	1.4	2.5	*4.5*	*6.1*	*
May	56.5	54.0	52.6	1.4	2.5	*4.5*	*5.9*	*
June	56.7	54.0	52.6	1.4	2.7	*4.7*	*5.9*	*
July	56.9	53.9	52.5	1.4	3.0	*5.3*	*6.7*	*
August	56.7	53.9	52.5	1.4	2.8	*4.9*	*6.2*	*
September	56.8	54.1	52.7	1.4	2.7	*4.8*	*6.1*	*
October	56.9	54.3	52.9	1.4	2.6	*4.5*	*6.0*	*
November	57.1	54.6	53.2	1.4	2.5	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
December	57.1	54.6	53.2	1.4	2.5	*4.4*	*6.0*	*
Avg.	56.7	54.1	52.7	1.4	2.6	*4.6*	*6.0*	.1
1981								
January	57.2	54.8	53.4	1.4	2.4	*4.2*	*5.7*	*
February	58.8	55.9	54.5	1.4	2.9	*4.8*	*6.2*	*
March	*59.1*	*56.5*	*55.1*	*1.4*	*2.6*	*4.4*	*5.9*	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers
2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.
** Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1980 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1981	Feb. 1981	March 1980	March 1981	Feb. 1981	March 1980	March 1981	Feb. 1981	March 1980
TOTAL PRIVATE	246.63	247.52	234.24	35.9	36.4	36.6	6.87	6.80	6.40
MANUFACTURING	375.58	378.29	391.30	42.2	42.6	43.0	8.90	8.88	9.10
Durable Goods	381.84	388.89	389.82	43.0	43.5	43.8	8.88	8.94	8.90
Primary Metal Industries	399.39	398.04	407.08	31.9	31.0	40.7	12.52	12.84	10.00
Nondurable Goods	363.04	357.51	357.73	40.7	40.8	41.5	8.92	8.76	8.62
Food and Kindred Products	305.30	305.77	306.90	42.3	42.5	45.4	7.22	7.18	6.76
MINING	463.97	480.31	410.62	43.0	43.0	49.0	10.79	11.17	8.38
Metal Mining	482.79	482.79	388.30	40.3	40.3	35.3	11.98	11.98	11.00
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	407.95	405.37	367.37	39.8	40.7	36.7	10.25	9.96	10.01
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	358.05	357.62	346.96	43.4	43.4	43.1	8.25	8.24	8.05
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	368.93	366.94	396.55	48.1	47.9	51.3	7.67	7.65	7.73
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	197.19	198.70	183.48	31.5	32.1	33.3	6.26	6.19	5.51
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	165.81	164.94	163.15	34.4	36.9	33.5	4.82	4.47	4.87
SERVICES	158.22	158.58	150.33	34.1	34.4	34.4	4.64	4.61	4.37

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATES									SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Recalls			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1981	Feb. 1981	Jan. 1980	Feb. 1981
MANUFACTURING	1.1	1.6	0.6	0.5	1.4	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	4.0	4.5	4.9	0.9	1.4	0.6	1.5	2.5	2.3
Durable Goods	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.2	2.9	4.4	2.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	2.3	2.9	1.0
Primary Metal Industries	0.3 0.3	0.3 0.3	0.7 0.7	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.3 0.3	0.3 0.3	0.5 0.5	0.3 0.3	2.5 2.5	5.4 5.4	0.0 0.0	1.9 1.9	0.1 0.1	0.0 0.0	0.0 0.0	0.8 0.8
Nondurable Goods	1.5	3.9	1.3	1.3	3.3	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	5.6	4.7	10.6	1.7	2.9	1.2	0.2	1.8	5.3
MINING	3.1	8.3	7.7	2.7	8.3	6.5	0.4	0.0	0.8	11.4	5.2	11.8	3.7	5.2	6.5	4.7	0.0	0.4
Metal Mining	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

* *Less than .05.*

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggrigate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year. Foreign corporation classification has been added and are considered established corporations from other states registered to do business in Montana. County tabulation is not possible, only industry structure is known.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	Year to Date 1981	Year to Date 1980
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	42	23	99	101
MINING	77	20	180	75
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	51	36	142	151
MANUFACTURING	23	18	74	74
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	28	16	79	69
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	145	79	416	353
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	84	33	223	137
SERVICES NON-PROFIT SERVICES	173 (36)	119 (39)	536 (129)	456 (105)
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	4	1	22	59
STATE TOTAL	627	345	1771	1475

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	Year to Date 1981	1980
STATE OF MONTANA	627	345	1771	1475
GREAT FALLS SMSA	40	28	122	113
BILLINGS SMSA	74	52	228	215
FOREIGN CORPORATIONS MULTI-COUNTY	121	26	359	110
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	38	24	98	100
Beaverhead	7	4	26	19
Deer Lodge	7	3	11	7
Granite	0	2	0	6
Madison	6	1	13	11
Powell	1	4	2	13
Silver Bow	17	10	46	44
BOZEMAN LMA	36	24	103	99
Gallatin	30	16	83	70
Meagher	1	3	1	5
Park	5	5	19	24
GLASGOW LMA	24	12	53	46
Daniels	0	0	2	2
Phillips	5	3	10	9
Roosevelt	6	4	15	14
Sheridan	8	2	15	10
Valley	5	3	11	11
GLENDIVE LMA	38	22	93	91
Dawson	12	5	34	27
Garfield	0	0	1	3
McCone	4	2	9	12
Prairie	1	1	2	5
Richland	20	14	44	43
Wibaux	1	0	3	1
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	6	9	32	34
Big Horn	1	2	4	10
Carbon	2	3	9	8
Stillwater	2	3	13	12
Sweet Grass	1	1	6	4

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS Mar. 1981	Mar. 1980	Year to Date 1981	1980
HAVRE LMA	20	9	59	36
Blaine	3	1	6	7
Hill	13	3	48	23
Liberty	4	5	5	6
HELENA LMA	37	20	107	93
Broadwater	1	0	2	1
Jefferson	2	0	8	6
Lewis and Clark	34	20	97	86
KALISPELL LMA	60	45	174	183
Flathead	41	31	123	121
Lake	13	7	30	33
Lincoln	6	7	21	29
LEWISTOWN LMA	10	9	28	33
Fergus	4	6	12	18
Golden Valley	0	0	0	2
Judith Basin	1	0	3	3
Musselshell	2	3	6	9
Petroleum	0	0	2	1
Wheatland	3	0	5	0
MILES CITY LMA	22	11	54	49
Carter	0	1	2	3
Custer	8	4	23	12
Fallon	4	3	7	14
Powder River	4	0	9	3
Rosebud	6	3	12	16
Treasure	0	0	1	1
MISSOULA LMA	72	39	193	199
Mineral	1	1	4	5
Missoula	49	30	124	150
Ravalli	17	6	50	31
Sanders	5	2	15	13
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	29	15	68	74
Choteau	4	3	8	14
Glacier	8	4	19	24
Pondera	1	4	9	14
Teton	2	2	7	4
Toole	14	2	25	18

Sources of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons: to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individuals's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under Montana law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

ETA5-1593 DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
MARCH 1981

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	302	85,532.24
BIGHORN	470	50,508.77
BLAINE	341	27,245.25
BROADWATER	132	14,331.95
CARBON	336	38,904.06
CARTER	14	1,309.00
CASCADE	5,448	575,349.21
CHOUTEAU	92	9,981.00
CUSTER	532	50,626.86
DANIELS	41	4,384.00
DAWSON	192	19,627.00
DEER LODGE	2,373	283,072.85
FALLON	36	5,392.00
FERGUS	496	47,193.74
FLATHEAD	5,175	506,912.77
GALLATIN	3,031	293,016.74
GARFIELD	0	0.00
GLACIER	939	85,016.21
GOLDEN VALLEY	20	1,798.12
GRANITE	132	13,054.48
HILL	725	68,199.84
JEFFERSON	288	30,796.26
JUDITH BASIN	33	3,593.36
LAKE	1,122	102,563.25
LEWIS AND CLARK	2,573	249,120.83
LIBERTY	53	5,023.20
LINCOLN	2,652	275,787.43
MCCONE	12	950.00
MADISON	213	20,462.10
MEAGHER	113	10,023.76
MINERAL	358	37,472.80
MISSOULA	6,632	660,262.05
MUSSELSHELL	129	12,670.00
PARK	901	78,921.82
PETROLEUM	15	1,043.00
PHILLIPS	194	18,515.34
PONDERA	136	19,751.01
POWDER RIVER	27	3,028.00
POWELL	399	39,715.79
PRAIRIE	64	6,512.04
RAVALLI	1,578	152,295.96
RICHLAND	125	12,510.38
ROOSEVELT	275	26,467.28
ROSEBUD	554	59,038.88
SANDERS	937	91,635.95
SHERIDAN	39	3,843.00
SILVER BOW	2,562	264,921.14
STILLWATER	237	25,636.06
SWEET GRASS	32	9,093.00
TETON	122	12,411.00
TOOLE	187	19,415.90
TREASURE	19	2,005.00
VALLEY	500	52,361.22
WHEATLAND	36	3,293.00
WIBAUX	24	2,106.00
YELLOWSTONE	6,187	640,873.60
INTRASTATE	50,444	5,082,708.12
INTERSTATE	2,174	494,544.69
TOTAL	52,618	5,577,252.81

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1981 THRU MARCH 1981

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,058	103,404.44
BIGHORN	1,501	153,675.44
BLAINE	901	81,085.22
BROADWATER	491	54,913.35
CARBON	1,073	112,704.33
CARTER	29	3,317.00
CASCADE	16,326	1,809,433.70
CHOUTEAU	198	19,262.00
CUSTER	1,725	173,955.18
DANIELS	112	12,085.00
DAWSON	567	57,399.00
DEER LODGE	7,211	849,895.60
FALLON	122	10,445.76
FERGUS	1,588	150,632.14
FLATHEAD	13,808	1,312,723.44
GALLATIN	7,295	631,005.07
GARFIELD	19	1,588.00
GLACIER	2,782	240,030.34
GOLDEN VALLEY	63	5,688.28
GRANITE	362	37,836.20
HILL	2,132	201,287.34
JEFFERSON	832	89,063.31
JUDITH BASIN	109	11,960.13
LAKE	3,451	314,233.57
LEWIS AND CLARK	7,272	710,562.87
LIBERTY	164	15,823.90
LINCOLN	5,853	566,598.31
MCCONE	48	3,347.00
MADISON	593	57,563.56
MEAGHER	383	36,684.90
MINERAL	1,164	120,727.87
MISSOULA	19,317	1,920,992.73
MUSSELSHELL	322	32,169.00
PARK	2,478	213,674.21
PETROLEUM	31	1,817.00
PHILLIPS	620	60,159.38
PONDERA	655	56,736.21
POWDER RIVER	77	8,493.00
POWELL	1,066	103,574.34
PRAIRIE	182	19,009.35
RAVALLI	4,491	427,041.87
RICHLAND	372	34,483.62
ROOSEVELT	942	95,753.00
ROSEBUD	1,893	209,364.29
SANDERS	2,641	256,055.60
SHERIDAN	120	11,138.00
SILVER BOW	7,744	797,141.55
STILLWATER	711	77,699.06
SWEET GRASS	328	34,759.00
TETON	505	51,505.00
TOOLE	511	53,478.58
TREASURE	59	6,106.00
VALLEY	1,464	150,438.20
WHEATLAND	104	9,985.00
WIBAUX	75	7,244.00
YELLOWSTONE	17,496	1,825,264.35
INTRASTATE	144,036	14,470,565.53
INTERSTATE	5,917	973,967.18
TOTAL	149,953	15,444,532.71

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1981	1980	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1]	14,443	17,406	-2,963	-17.0
Continued Claims[1]	169,897	179,133	-9,236	- 5.2
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	149,953	150,241	-288	- 1.9
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$15,444,533	$13,847,617	$1,596,916	11.5
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2]	$110.69	$96.33	$14.36	14.9

MONTHLY

	Mar. 1981	Feb. 1981	Mar. 1980	Change From Year Ago Net	Percent
Initial Claims[1]	3,756	4,057	3,918	-162	-4.1
Continued Claims[1]	59,290	54,654	53,333	5,957	11.2
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	52,618	48,166	50,078	2,540	5.1
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$5,577,253	$4,865,956	$4,650,081	$927,172	19.9
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2]	$114.26	$108.18	$97.28	$16.98	17.5
Trust Fund Balance	$11,080,371	$16,028,841	$10,506,757*	$573,614	5.5

1/ *Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.*
2/ *Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".*
* *Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $7,084,089.*

The number of initial claims filed in March, 3,756, dropped slightly from last year's 3,918 and last month's 4,057. Continued claims count, however, rose to 59,290 from 53,333 in March, 1980 and 54,654 in February, a change of 11.2% and 8.5% respectively.

Both number and amount of benefits paid gained this March. There were 52,618 payments made compared with 48,166 last month and 50,078 last year. The maximum benefits amount increases each year which raises the monthly payments, but this month the $5,557,253 paid was higher than preceding amounts, even allowing for the annual advance. Payments were $4,865,956 for February and $4,650,081 for March, 1980.

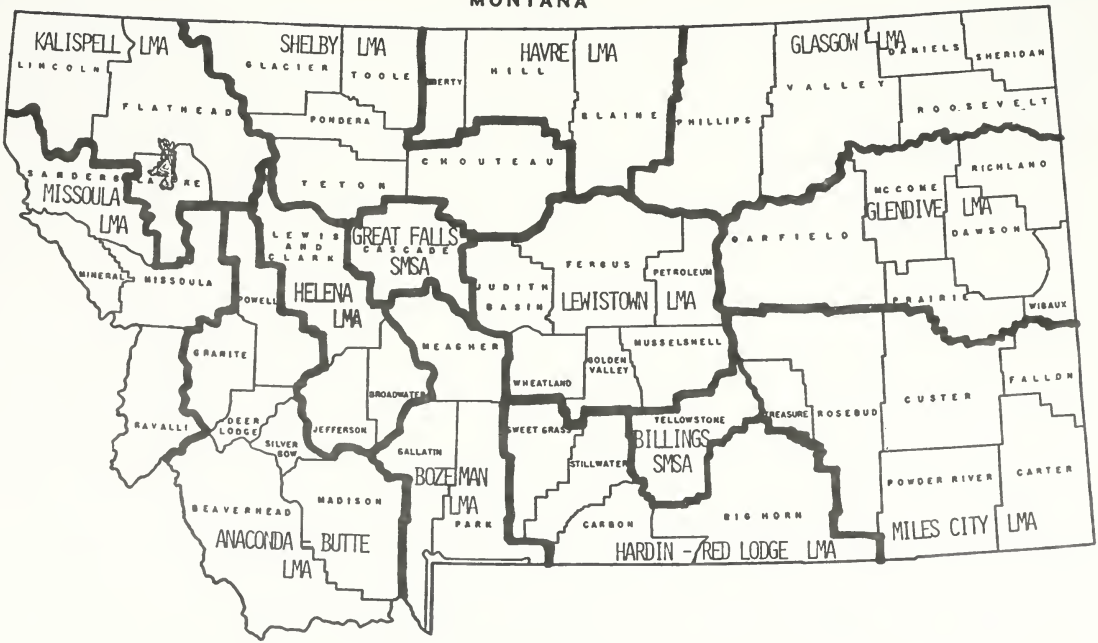
Average Weekly Benefit Amount of $114.26 for March exceeds the $108.18 in February by $6.08 and the $97.28 for last March by $16.98. This high figure for the month would indicate that many claimants are receiving the maximum benefit. Year-to-date claims and number of payments are all less than the same three months of 1980, but amount of benefits and the average benefit so far in 1981 are greater than a year ago.

The third month of the first quarter is normally the lowest Trust Fund Balance for the year, due to larger benfit payments and smaller contributions. The March balance of $11,080,371, which is almost $5 million less than the $16,028,841 in February, but over $.5 million more than the $10,506,757 in March, 1980, is probably low for this year and the fund should start to build up if the economy improves as anticipated.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
OF MONTANA
P.O. BOX 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59624

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
MAIL
LAB 449

U.S.MAIL

BULK RATE

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 24 local Job Service offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.

750 copies of this publication were produced at a unit cost of $.58 per copy, for a total cost of $612.28 which includes $349.78 for printing and $262.50 for distribution.